

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 9-38 are now pending in the present application, Claims 2-8 and 39-55 having been previously cancelled due to an election made in response to a restriction requirement. Claim 1 has been canceled in the present amendment. Claims 9-38 have been allowed.

Rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103

7 The Examiner has rejected Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Hayes in
8 view of Craggs. The Examiner asserts that Hayes discloses each aspect of the present invention,
9 except for curved vanes, and that it would have been obvious to modify the impeller described by
10 Hayes to incorporate the curved vanes disclosed by Craggs.

11 Applicants attempted to amend Claim 1 to distinguish over the cited art in and
12 Amendment and Request for Reconsideration filed on November 18, 2004. In an Advisory
13 Action dated December 2, 2004, the Examiner noted that the amendment would not be entered
14 because as amended Claim 1 presented a new combination.

15 In the present amendment, applicants have canceled Claim 1 without prejudice and
16 without agreeing with the rejection that was made of it, thereby placing the application in
17 condition for allowance, and the application therefore should be passed to issue without delay.
18 Should any further questions remain, the Examiner is invited to telephone applicants' attorney at
19 the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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MCK/RMA:lrq

MAILING CERTIFICATE:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on December 16, 2004.

Date: December 16, 2004

Lydia Sweet